#### NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.

PROPRIETOR. Letters and packages should be properly

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despatches must be addressed New York Rejected communications will not be re-

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.

COOPER INSTITUTE. FREE PREACHING BY REV. CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION .- REV. ABBOTT

CHURCH OF THE STRANGERS, University, Washington square.—Bishop Wightman. Morning and evening. CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH. - REV. G. H. HEPWORTE

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, Thirty-fifth street.—REV. EVERETT ROOMS .- SPIRITUALISTS. MRS. BRIGHAM. FREE CHURCH OF THE HOLY LIGHT.-REV. EAST-

FORTY-SECOND STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Rev. Dr. Scott. Morning and evening.

FIRST BAPTIST MARINERS' CHURCH-REV. J. L. FIRST MORAVIAN P. E. CHURCH, REV. A. A. REINER, Morning

FRUE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.-REV. J. Q. ADAMS. MEMORIAL CHURCH OF BISHOP WAINWRIGHT,-

MURRAY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH.-BEV. DE. SID-

NORTH PRESEYTERIAN CHURCH.-REV. THOMAS ST. PETER'S CHURCH, Thirty-fourth street. - SERVICES

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.-Morning and THIRTY-FOURTH STREET REFORMED CHURCH .-

TRENOR'S LYRIC HALL,-REV. O. B. FROTEINGHAM. UNIVERSITY, Washington square.-Bishop Snow.

# TRIPLE SHEET

New York, Sunday, May 2, 1869.

#### TO ADVERTISERS.

All advertisements should be sent in before eight o'clock, P. M., to insure proper classification.

THE HERALD IN BROOKLYN.

Notice to Carriers and Newsdealers

BROGELYN CARRIERS AND NEWSMEN will in future receive their papers at the BRANCH OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD, No. 145 Fulton street. Brookivn.

ADVERTISEMENTS and SUBSCRIPTIONS and all letters for the New York Herald will be received as above.

# THE NEWS.

Europe. The cable telegrams are dated May 1.

still centinues in political circles in London The Times contained another article on the subject yesterday, in which it claimed that the Queen's proclamation of neutrality at the commencement of the rebeilion was a prohibition not an authorization of blockad The British commodore commanding the fleet in the West Indies, has been instructed to de-mand the restoration of the Mary Lowell as an apology for her capture.

The protocol for a commercial conference between

Prance and Belgium has been signed. The discussions in the Spanish Cortes on Priday related to amendments to the Constitution

It is proposed by th Russian Council of State to enlarge the powers of municipal councils, enlarge the number of voters and modify the press laws.

# Paraguay.

By the Atlantic telegraph we learn that Lopez had a large army under him and was carrying on a guerrilla warfare in the Ceno Leon and Sogoa districts. An ailted gunboat expedition up the Parana river had reported that there were no fortifications on its banks. Minister Paranhos was about marching on Villa Rica with 3,000 men.

Mexico.

Despatches by way of San Francisco state that an engagement had taken place between Palacios and the government troops under General Dara, in which the latter lost 200 men. Conturns had pro-Palacies could held out for a month he would secure the erection of a Northwestern Confederacy.

Our Papama letter is dated April 23. The Colombian Congress was still in session. A proposal from British cannislists had been laid before it, to conimpeaching President !Gutierrez for removing the the House. It is believed that a movement is on cated, to withdraw the States of Bolivar, Panama and three others from the union and to form a sepa-

rate republic. Central America.

A revolutionary attempt has been made in Guatemaia by Serapio Cruz and Ruffino Banios, but the government troops have been sent against them. The privilege of bringing Chinese coolies into Nicaragua has been granted to Frederic Albuding & Co. by the President. The steamship America was destroyed by fire at San Juan del Sur on the 11th of April. The contract with M. Chevalier for open ing a canal across Nicaragua has been ratified by the Senate, but M. Belly claims that his own ex clusive privilege is still in force and therefore M r's is void. M. Belly has sailed for New York to lay his scheme before the United States

# St. Thomas.

Our correspondent on board the Peruvian monttor Manco Capac, under date of April 23, states that both monitors are at St. Thomas, where they will remain until they hear from the Peruvian Minister is New York. The reported foundering of one of the monitors was, therefore, incorrect. The American crews are being discharged at their own request and their places are being supplied with Wes Indian negroes. The American engineers state that nge greatly lessens the probabilities of a successful trip. Captain Sanchez, through whose inefficiency the Reyes was lost, is to be sent home

The Legislature.

In the Senate yesterday the Railroad Committee reported adversely upon a number of bills, among them the bill for an underground railway west side of New York; railroad in Twenty-third street; extending the powers of the Eric Raliroad; incorporating the Long Island tunnel and railroad. The bilis relating to the fees of the Sheriff of the city and county of New York; incorporating the Hansom Cab Company, and to authorize the Southside Railroad

Company to use steam dummies in the streets of Brooklyn, were passed to a third reading. The bills for the erection of an almshouse in Brooklyn, and in relation to local asses in opening and widening streets in New York were in opening and widening streets in New Fort and passed. The bill amending the State Excise law was recommitted and amended so as to authorize the issuance of licenses for the sale of ale or beer to parties other than hotel or inn keepers, upon the pay-ment of ten dollars, and as amended was ordered to

third reading. Adjourned till Monday. The Assembly refused to concur in the Senate amendments to the Town Bonding bill, striking our certain counties from its operation. The bills estab-lishing a new drive on West Eleventh avenue, from 156th street north to the institution for th Blind, and allowing the Excise Commissioners to revoke a license for cause, were passed. The bills authorizing the Comptroller of New York to appoint four tax commissioners; to abolish certain punish-ments in State prisons and penitentiaries; fixing the salaries of Kings county Supervisors, and increas-ing the salaries of Supreme Court judges and clerks and reporters of the Court of Appeals, were report upon favorably. The Governor returned to the House the bill relating to the Jordon Academy, giving his reasons for withholding his approval of the bill. The veto was sustained by a vote of 66 to 4 The Assembly then adjourned until Monday.

#### Miscellaneous.

The statement of the public debt for May shows a ecrease since the last monthly statement of over \$6,000,000, at which Secretary Boutwell expressed

General Robert E. Lee visited the White House yesterday, and although there was quite a crowd of Congressmen and office seekers ahead of him, he was almost immediately admitted to a private inter view with President Grant, much to the indignation of the loyal audience seekers. The visit lasted about half an hour, but the tenor of it is unknown. It is supposed to have been relative to reconstruction in Virginia, but a report was started that it resulted in the appointment of Lee as a special commissioner to Cuba.

day, and was waited upon by a large number of citi zens, among whom was the ex-rebel General Henry Heath, an old acquaintance, with whom Sherma

During the recent Sunday School Convention in Newark the citizens, it is stated, took undue advantage of the refreshments especially provided for the regular delegates.

On Friday a number of convicts in Sing Sing prison attacked one of the keepers named William and beat him savagely. He was rescued, however, before he was dangerously injured. The trouble grew out of a reported intention to increase the hours of labor.

A storm in the Gulf of Mexico on Friday severely damaged the light-house at Southwest Pass, in the mouth of the Mississippl. The building sunk on

The Richmond Southern Opinion ceased publica tion yesterday. The editor says the principles he had endeavored to uphold are dead in the hearts of the people. ssioner of Indian Affairs Parker has re

signed his position of lieutenant and brevet brigadier general in the regular army. The Pacific Railroad will not be completed for two

weeks, although there are only thirteen miles of rail to lay, as the unfinished section requires much heavy work.
Ex-Congressman Henry T. Blow, of Missouri, has

been appointed Minister to Brazil. The late heavy rains in Alabama caused the overflew of several streams, and thereby ruined a por-tion of the corn and cotton crops.

The morning papers in Montreal are calling for female type setters in consequence of the printers' strike.

Over four hundred French Canadians left Montreal on Friday for Boston and New York. A velocipede frightened a horse in the outskirts of Cincinnati yesterday and Mary McAlester was

thrown in consequence from a buggy and lost an

The City. Robert M. Haldenreid, a nobleman of Saxony, twenty-six years of age, committed suicide in hi room at No. 7 St. Mark's place yesterday. No cause is known for the act, although he has uniforms shown a spirit of sadness when in the company of his intimate friends. His real name is unknown

The stock market yesterday was duli, heavy and irregular. Gold advanced to 135, closing finally at Almost all of the markets were extremely quiet the demand. Coffee was dull but firmly held. Cot. only moderately active, but steady in value. Sugar and molasses were dull, but unchanged. On 'Change flour was quiet but unchanged, the low grades being firm, while the high grades were dull and almost Wheat was quiet but firm. Corn was

nigher under an scrive demand, while oats, though quiet, were firmly held. Pork was slow of sale and sought after, but steady in value, while beef was quiet but unchanged. Petroleum was dull at 17 1/4c. a 17%c, for crude, in bulk, and 32c, a 32%c, for refined. Naval stores-Spirits turpentine was active but lower, closing at 46%c. a 48c., while rosin. hough quiet, was steady. Freights were dull and

Prominent Arrivals in the City. Governor J. M. Harvey, of Kansas; Colonel Charles 4. Apple, of Washington; Major A. P. Shreve, of Leavenworth, Kansas; Dr. Herrick, of Albany, and H. B. Hulbert, of Cleveland, are at the St. Nicholas

Mr. T. Vogt, of Lima: Dr. W. W. Bancroft, of Obio General N. P. Chipman, of Washington, and P. H. Jones, Postmaster of New York, are at the Astor

Senator A. H. Cragin, of New Hampshire: Major R. W. Fisk, of Montana; Colonel D. J. Mitchell and Major R. McCarthy, of Syracuse; W. B. Graves and P. E. Nye, of West Point, and A. S. Sprague, of th United States Navy, are at the Metropolitan Hotel. Major S. B. Scott, of Montreal; Dr. J. S. Sydnor, of Galveston, and Colonel Bowdoice, of South Carolina,

are at the St. Charles Hotel.

Judge Ed. L. Goold, of San Francisco; W. Sager nd Thomas Byrne, of New Orleans, and L. J. Myres, of Savannah, are at the New York Hotel. F. G. y Garcia, of Peru, and C. Louis Watjen, of

Bremen, are at the Clarendon Hotel. D. C. Littlejohn, of Buffalo; Ben. Field, of Albion: H. R. Low and Hy. Tiffany, of New York, and Gov. ernor Burnside, of Rhode Island, are at the Fifth

Edgar T. Wells, of Washington; Walter S. Church, of Albany, and Captain Martyn, of steamship Siberia, are at the Hoffman House

Prominent Departures.

Governor J. W. Geary and G. B. Lindeman, for Pennsylvania; J. S. Fowler, for Nashville, Tenn. Seneral M. T. Trumpburn, for Kingston; T. A. Scott, C. T. Jones and Major A. Newhouse, for Philadel phia; W. A. Hooper, for Utah; Captaiu Robert Dul-zell, for Texas; McKean Buchanan, for Binghamton Colonel Latham and General Fremont, for town; Senator Fenton, for Jamestown; C. S. Bushnel and W. B. Bristol, for New Haven; J. A. Griswo and D. Thomas Vgil, for Troy; T. H. Canfield for Vermont; Colonel J. Black, for Washington Colonel Littlefield, for Albany, and Colonel Henry Graham and family, for Paris,

ENGLAND, SPAIN AND CUBA.-The commander of the British West India squadron has been ordered by the home government to demand from the authorities of Cuba the immediate release of the brig Mary Lowell and an apology for her seizure. The brig was suspected of being freighted with arms for the use of the Cuban insurgents. Does Great Britain sympathize with revolution? Does she wish to obtain a foothold in Cuba and thus become our good neighbor opposite?

RATHER COMFORTABLE. - A mechanic, working at day's labor, writes to a morning paper to complain of the assessment on his lots in Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth streets, near Fifth

Seuntor Sumner's Great Speech-The Sen-

sation to England. Anticipating from Senator Sumner's masterly exposition of the so-called Alabams claims and of the stupendous liabilities of England a great sensation in the British capital and throughout the three kingdoms, we had provided for the special despatches on the subject through the Atlantic cable which we laid before our readers yesterday morning. We were not mistaken in our conjectures. In the expressive language of the menagerie, Senator Sumner has "stirred up the British lion with a long pole," and his antics betray his astonishment and alarm. The Hon. Reverdy Johnson had mesmerized him into a delicious slumber; but Sumner has rudely broken the spell, and the United States Senate has quite as roughly dissipated all those soft delusions of the Johnson-Stanley treaty. English diplomatic roast beef and plum pudding have signally failed, and her Majesty's Lords, Commons, nobility and political press have had their eyes fully opened to the important fact that they were egregiously humbugged on these Southern confederacy responsibilities of England by a half-and-half American representative from the south side of Mason and Dixon's line.

The first responses of the British metropolitan press to Senator Sumner, liberal and tory, bring us the important admission that neither Reverdy Johnson's diplomacy nor Andrew Johnson's Premier represented on these Alabama claims the Senate or the people of the United States; and that Mr. Sumner not only represents this people and their Senate, but the new administration, on this great question. These admissions give a new shape to the whole controversy in England, and upon the ultimatum suggested the leading journals of London are bewildered with the gravity of the subject. It is no longer a matter of amusement and derision, nor of the soothing fancies of brotherly love inspired by our amiable Ambassador from Maryland. All this flimsy drapery is torn away, and that which was supposed to be simply a statue of Peace, with only the olive branch and a wreath of roses, is revealed as the embodiment of the great republic, with the offer of the olive or the thunderbolt-

What is to follow? John Bright's London organ (the Star) says that "if Mr. Motley's instructions are couched in a similar spiritreferring to Sumner's speech-his mission will be fruitless, as the extravagance of the propositions will strike the public at once." The Times estimates the damages of Mr. Sumner's bill at £422,000,000, or say two thousand millions of dollars in gold, so far, and that it may be indefinitely enlarged, and urges that in a settlement of these claims we ought not to forget that during our civil war the fate of the Union depended upon the voice of England, and that, had she yielded to the wish of Napoleon, there would have been an end to the United States. This is begging the question. Napoleon in Mexico undertook a bold movement to be in at the death; but we have settled with him. Our unsettled account is with England and her offensive, and, to us, her costly neutrality and belligerent rights.

The high tory organ, the London Standard, takes the bold ground that on these Alabama claims "the policy of England is no longer an open question;" that our pretensions cannot be seriously considered without exciting indignation, and that "under the circumstances it is probable that the Americans will elect to keep the Alabama claims in reserve and await their opportunity for revenge more cheaply' than through a direct war. We think it possible that in the devious ways and delays of diplomacy this difficulty may be debated to the end of General Grant's present term of office; but we feel perfectly free to say that unless within the interval to the next Presidential election, November, 1872, he shall have effected a settlement with England satisfactory to the American Senate and people, the Presidential succession will turn upon this very as to admit of no further evasions, abatements or delays.

According to our special cable despatches there was an informal meeting of her Majesty's Cabinet on Friday last on the startling demands of Mr. Sumner's speech, at which meet ing Mr. Gladstone professed to have good assurances that the rejection of the Johnson treaty by the Senate was purely a political movement. Admitting this, is it not a movement of portentous meaning in being sustained by the unanimous vote of the Senate, save one (an eccentric and unreconstructed Southerner from Kentucky)? Could the administration, if so inclined, dare to disregard this significant vote of the Senate in resuming these Alabama claims negotiations? The British Premier also begs the question. It brings him face to face with a new danger; for it appears that "outside the tone of the English people is anti-American," and more so since the appearance of Sumner's speech. Thus placed be tween two fires, Gladstone must temporize, and a temporizing policy he will doubtless pursue as long as the indulgence of General Grant will permit.

The administration holds and Mr. Motley will represent the views of Senator Sumner, and with the general diffusion of his great speech and the vote of the Senate on the Johnson-Stanley treaty the people of this country have become hopeful of an early and decisive settlement, concerning which it will be dangerous in every view of the subject to disappoint them. They expect another example of General Jackson's diplomacy in reference to certain claims for French spoliations upon American commerce, and they have no fear of a different result. We may say, however, for the information of the British government, that among the masses of the people there are fifteen hundred thousand trained soldiers in the United States and fifty thousand sailors ready, on a thirty days' notice, for the last resort of

Hope for the Fisheries.

While the Senate Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the bill framed by the Commissioners of Fisheries to protect the interests under their charge, were droning and dozing over it, Mr. R. M. Skeels, member of Assembly from Niagara county, obtained a copy of the bill, introduced it in the House, had it reported and actually forced it through Thus while the old fogies of the Senate were staring in amazement at a law which was intended to make the waters profitable and

the waste places to blossom like a rose, and were puzzling their thick skulls to determine whether it was desirable to prevent the ravages of overfishing and to assert the wonderful reproductive power of the fluny tribes in restocking the fisheries, the younger men of the lower house took the matter in hand and put it through. Here is one step gained. We have got rid of the do-nothing, deadweight style of opposition. There never was any objection to a consideration of the proposed enactment on its merits. There may be errors in it which want correcting, but this is the first occasion where there has seemed any possibility of getting the case to a hearing. And when this result was finally achieved there was opposition, of course, but no intelligent opposition, or no argument, against a single clause of the act. Now comes the turn of the Senate once more. The hibernating bears of that establishment have been sucking their paws over it long enough; the warm weather is upon us, the winter is over and it is time that they waked up. Senator Folger is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Let him stir up his associate bears with a long pole and see that the animals dance to the popular air of developing our food resources for the good of the people. To Mr. Skeels belongs the credit of taking the wild creatures of our State under his protection by securing the enactment first of the Game law and now of the Fishery bill.

The American Jockey Club. The late reformatory proceedings on the part of the American Jockey Club in throwing open the space on the grand stand heretofor occupied exclusively by the members of the club has met with the cordial approbation of the community. It is understood, however, that certain restrictions are imposed upon admission to the stand, and that no parties other than those whose respectability is vouched for by members of the club intreducing them will be allowed to occupy its seats. This precaution will entirely exclude persons of doubtful pretensions to respectability, or whose presence might otherwise be disagreeable to the company present. The club will meet again on Wednesday evening, 5th instant, when further acceptable reforms will be suggested and probably passed upon, as there seems to be a progressive spirit among its more enlightened members to popularize the institution of racing in this vicinity by every

means at their command. The regular meeting at Jerome Park comnences on the 5th of June; but previous to that day, on the 2d of June, there will be three interesting match races run, one of them being for a large amount of money. Looking through the racing horoscope we venture to predict a brilliant meeting, and one which will give general satisfaction to the public, as there will be a fine representation of the best horses in the country from the great racing regions of the South and Southwest to contend for the prizes offered by the association with the best horses that are owned in this region. There will be four regular racing days, but not consecutive, as they will alternate with blank days, so as to occupy the time until the 12th

In addition to the meeting on their own course, the American Jockey Club will also manage the racing that is to take place at the Prospect Park Fair Grounds in the latter part of June. As the nature of the racing which is adopted by the American Jockey Club is not calculated to overtax the powers of the horses engaged in the various races at their course, they will undoubtedly be in fine condition for the racing at the latter place. From the peculiar nature of the soil of the Prospect Park Fair Grounds, it is as eminently adapted to running as to trotting purposes. The Park is not far distant from the site of the old Long Island race course, where racing was held long anterior to the construction of the Union course, and on which some of the best running of olden times took place. These Fair Grounds are lovely to look upon and command an ex hilarating view for many miles around. From the balconies of the Club House may be seen on the one hand the ocean spreading far and wide beyond Sandy Hook as far as the eve can reach, and on the other a wide expanse of field and forest, hill and dale, studded with the homes of industry and the abodes of wealth.

There can be no doubt of the success of these meetings. They will be popular assemblages in every sense of the word, and under the liberal inducements offered by the manage ment there will be drawn together the finest fields of horses ever seen in America. As the Prospect Park Association is an entirely new organization it has cause to congratulate itself that its first race meeting will be held under the auspices of the experienced members of the American Jockey Club, who will, no doubt, induct it successfully into the business of horse racing as practised at Jerome Park and Saratoga.

ROSSINI'S SOLEMN MASS .- Notwithstanding our deliberate conviction, confirmed by a second hearing, that the encomiums of the European press upon Rossini's Solemn Mass are exaggerated, we readily concede that it contains several delightful and impressive melodies, which compare favorably with any others due to the "Swan of Pesaro," and that as a whole it is a work which every lover of music should attentively study. As we have already had occasion to remark, Miss Kellogg brings out all the beauties of the Crucifixusa soprano solo of the true Rossinian grace and sweetness-to the fullest extent. Both in the O Salutaris and the Agnus Dei Mme. Natalie Testa gives proof of being a thorough artist and a sympathetic vocalist. This evening an audience no less fashionable and numerous than that which has listened to Rossini's Solemn Mass for two successive evenings during the present week, at the Academy of Music, will doubtless assemble to hear it at Steinway Hall; but we must say that properly to appreciate and enjoy so sublime a work it should be heard not in an opera house or music hall, but in some grand cathedral.

AN ANTIQUITY GONE. - In St. Louis they have cleared away a strange old Indian burial mound to lay out streets. In none, perhaps, but an American city would an antiquity so ruthlessly be shovelled out of the way, and in no other city should such a monument be valued more. Could they not have planned their streets around it and made it a point of interest, if not ornament?

Yachting in England-The Ocean Race. It will be seen by our Cowes letter today that English yachtmen show a decided tendency to fight a little shy on a race that may have an international character and determine a racing supremacy in blue water. They do not leap into such a contest with the ardor and enthusiasm we might expect from the men who recently dilated on the glories and superiorities of the British craft, apropos to the defeat of the Sappho. They have not the confidence they seemed to have. Can it be that all their enthusiasm has given way to a cautious wish to first have a look at our boats? The circular of the Royal Albert Club, proposing an international match, is rather neglected by other clubs; and even the Gibraltar race, that had an exhilarating promise in it, may, it is intimated, be cut down to a race from the Needles to Brest, and thus be little. if any, better than the French race. This is not much from the greatest maritime people of Europe. With these changes the probabilities are that our boats must take the chances they can get in the Channel bouts, where, to be sure, the advantages will be on the other side, but from which they may come out with honor. In the glorification that English yachtmen

set up over the defeat of the Sappho they perhaps did not fancy that we would come again. They triumphed very liberally, not having in view the probability of another trial that might more thoroughly test their claims and put them on their mettle for a struggle against fairly representative vessels. In the presence of the opportunity for such a struggle they behave differently. Altogether the defeat of the Sappho was good for us. It has demonstrated the vitality of the sport on this side the water. With the victory of the Sappho we should have stood still; for it is her defeat alone that takes to England this year such splendid champions. It is because it was felt that some of the honor gained by the America was lost that the Meteor was built, and that the present owner of the Sappho bought her to out her forward again in more favorable circumstances. Because the Sappho was beaten. in short, three boats from this city go to Europe this summer, while it is not probable that any otherwise would have gone. As to whether these boats shall have a chance to fairly test their qualities against British boats, that is a thing to be determined by the men on the other side. It can only be said that the very presence of our yachts in English waters will be a standing challenge and defiance; and if England does not accept the gage she must say less about the Sappho.

BURNING THE EVIDENCE.-What right had the Long Island Railroad men to burn the evidence in the recent railroad disaster? Was not this an outrageous interference with the Coroner in his duties? The car was destroyed and the road mended, and thus the jury could not decide on the blame to be laid on the company. But is this the conduct of men who know that they are not in fault, or of men who know that they are in fault?

A SERIOUS QUESTION.-How many drinks long is a battle? In Burnside's account of Sprague at Bull run we see a suggestion for a standard of measurement for battles much better than simple hours and minutes, as it measures the intensity as well as mere duration. Sprague galloped to the rear for a drink a great many times, and very rapidly always. Now, in an average battle he might do this twenty times-a twenty drink battle, say. Another might be a fifty drink battle; or, if it were intense and the galloping extra hard, the same might be a sixty drink battle. Veterans would speak of skirmishes and ten drink battles with equal contempt. Drinks are the measurement, and warriors will soon have done with common timepieces. Sprague's drinks may even push Shrewsbury clock from its ancient

ANOTHER ROW IN RHODE ISLAND,-In a drove of cattle driven through the streets of Providence there was a young steer that sudbut in an unusual way. He put down his head and put up his tail and away he went, up the street and down the street, at the old men and women, and cripples and lampposts-tremendously. Providence was in an awful uproar, and to the very end the steer never knew exactly what he was driving at. The remarkable way in which this fellow repeated Sprague may suggest to the reflective how much intellect was necessary for the Senator's performance. GENERAL LEE AT THE WHITE HOUSE .-

General Robert E. Lee, who commanded the forces of the Confederates, visited President Grant at the White House yesterday forenoon. He was accorded a strictly private audience of an hour's duration. The office-seekers, who filled the ante-chambers, were mortified and disgusted at the temporary adjournment of a consideration of their clamorous appeals for place and indulged in manifold conjectures as to the cause of the meeting of the two distinguished officers. Perhaps it was for the purpose of consultation as to the adoption of some new strategic plan by the use of which the President will be freed from their importunities.

THE MAY ANNIVERSARIES. - A list of the religious anniversaries to be held in this city in the present month of May will be found in our religious department of this day's issue. It will be seen that although the catalogue embraces a comparatively meagre number of socities yet there are enough to give to the season a share of its time-honored and sanctified associations. The discussions in the American Bible Society meetings will be especially interesting, while the anti-slavery agita tors will have a glorious opportunity to ventilate their oratory upon some new and, perhaps, marvellous hobby. Wendell Phillips will be here, and in his train will probably be found our cheerful friend Abby Kelly Foster, the auburn-whiskered Burleigh, the irrepressible Fred Douglass, and so on to the end of the old 'bobbilition" faction. The occasion will no doubt, be one of great interest to all participants. Let the religious anniversaries be enouraged.

NEUTRALITY. - British neutrality consists in lenying the use of the British flag to the menof-war on either side; and in Switzerland they have ordered Mazzini to leave the country because he has abused his refuge by plotting against a neighbor. They make bad cheese in that country, but they improve on the English law.

The Public Debt.

The official statement of the condition of the public debt on the last day of April, issued yesterday in Washington and published in the HERALD this morning, affords gratifying assurance of the advance which has been made towards its ultimate extinction during the past month, as well as of the vast financial resources of the country. The exhibit shows that the debt decreased \$6,800,000 during the thirty days just closed, that the amount of coin in the Treasury was \$92,000,-000, the coin certificates amounted to \$16,-000,000 and the currency to \$7,000,000. A sum of \$3,206,796 was paid as interest in advance, while the debt bearing coin interest footed up \$2,107,878,700 and the debt bearing currency interest \$67,240,000. The foreign enemies of the Union consoled themselves during the period of our civil war with the hope-it may be said, conviction-that the nation would reel and stagger to dissolution after the close of the conflict under the necessities of a heavy money pressure. In this they have been gloriously disappointed. Our power of material recuperation is limitless, so that while Great Britain and France indulge in their money "makeshifts" yearly the peo-ple of the United States make solid reduction in their unexpected national charges, and can afford to smile, if so inclined, at their transatlantic decrepitude.

#### The Ecumenical Council. Our readers will remember that a few Sun-

days ago we published some facts which made it appear doubtful whether after all the General Council convened by his Holiness the Pope and to meet in Rome on the 8th of December next would ever become a fact of history. It appears that inside the Catholic Church the wisdom of the step taken by his Holiness is very seriously questioned. Everywhere by those who are not in perfect sympathy with the Pope and who are more to blame, if blame there be, than the Pope himself for the steps already taken, the questions are put, "What good can come of it?" "Affairs are going on well enough; why risk discussions the results of which are so doubtful and which may prove so disastrous?" Again, it has been asked with much pertinency and propriety, "What does the Council intend to do? What are the questions which it means to discuss?" On this point the Papal bull was so vague that it is not wonderful that good Catholics and the world generally desiderate information. Even the Bishop of Orleans, whose letter to the clergy of his diocese which appeared recently in the Catholic World, and which has since been published in a separate form, can give us no better answer than this: that "its objects are twofold-the good of the Church and the welfare of human society." This programme is certainly wide and indefinite enough. Some there are who tell us that the Council is to proclaim the Pope infallible, to confirm the decision given in regard to the Immaculate Conception, to take into consideration the celibacy of the clergy, to deliberate upon and, if possible, finally to settle the future relations of Church and State. On each of those questions, however, so much difference of opinion exists even among Church dignitaries themselves-and on some of them Rome is so completely divided from Francethat fears have been loudly expressed whether in the event of the Council assembling it would be found possible to proceed with busi-

For ourselves we have no doubt at all that the Council will be held. To halt now, after having gone so far, would argue an inherent weakness which would be damaging to the prestige of the Catholic Church. The hand has been put to the plough, and we have no fear that the Pope or his adviser will look back. The Pope, in fact, regards this as the pet project of his life, and his heart is set on its success. Everything that can be done will be done to make it a landmark of history as well as a Should any serious difficulty arise after the Council has been formally opened it will not be difficult to avoid the necessity of dissolution. Following the precedents established by the Council of Trent and previous Councils the Council of Rome, 1869, may be adjourned indefinitely.

Taking it for granted, however, that the

Council will meet, and that business will be

done, it is a natural and pertinent inquiry, what will the Council do, and what is likely to be the result of its deliberations? It appears from a variety of sources that the proceedings will be largely determined by three events which have taken place in Europe since 1851. These events are the promulgation of the Immaculate Conception, 1854; the Italian revolution and the Encyclical. The promulgation of the Immaculate Conception, important enough, no doubt, on its own account, derives a larger importance from the fact that it involves the question of the Pope's infallibility. This dogma in its present state rests on the ipse dixit of his Holiness. It is a question of some importance to the Catholic Church and to the outside world generally how far some one hundred and fifty millions of Christians are entitled to accept a dogma on the word of the Bishop of Rome. The proclamation by the Council of the infallibility of the Pope will establish the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. On the other hand, the confirmation by the Council of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception will be a virtual proclamation of the infallibility of the Pope. As the Holy Father himself is known to be a firm believer in his own infallibility it is scarcely to be doubted that he will insist on the Council committing itself in some way to both those dogmas. On both, however, there is much difference of opinion, and from one or other, or both, trouble may arise. The Italian revolution has given prominence to the whole question of political liberalism. In Italy, in France, in Austria, in Southern Germany generally, in the United States there are many good Catholics who are the devoted and uncompromising disciples of political liberty. It is notorious that absolutism is a sacred principle at Rome. How can the disciples of liberty come to terms with the absolutists? what are the relations of Church and State? should the temporal Papacy be abolished? are questions which must be grappled with; but by minds so conflicting how can they be settled? The Encyclical

and Syllabus, which appeared in 1864,